

What is claimed:

1. A method of redirecting data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving data items directed to a common address associated with the host system;
continuously redirecting the data items to a mobile communication device; and,
receiving data items sent from the mobile communication device;
wherein data items generated at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the common address as an address from which data items originated.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15 configuring one or more redirection events at the host system;
detecting that a redirection event has occurred at the host system and generating a redirection trigger; and
in response to the redirection trigger, continuously redirecting the data items to the mobile communication device.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

20 storing information regarding the configuration of the mobile communication devices at the host system.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the configuration information stored at the host system includes, for each mobile communication device:

(A) the network address of the mobile communication device; and

(B) an indication of the types of message attachments that the mobile communication device can receive and process.

5 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the configuration information further includes:

(C) an indication of the type of mobile communication device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the received data items are addressed using a sender address and a receiver address, the method further comprising the steps of:

10 determining whether the receiver address is associated with a mobile communication device;

15 if the receiver address is associated with a mobile data communication device, then determining a network address of the mobile communication device and repackaging the data items into electronic envelopes addressed using the receiver address and the network address of the mobile communication device; and

after receiving the redirected messages at the mobile communication device, extracting the data items from the electronic envelopes and displaying the items at the mobile data communication device using the sender address and the receiver address, so that it appears as though the mobile communication device is the host system.

20

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

for each data item to be redirected, the host system determining whether the data item includes an attachment, and if so then determining the type of attachment;

accessing the stored configuration information at the host system to determine whether the mobile communication device can receive and process attachments of the determined type; and

if so, then redirecting the attachments to the mobile communication device, and if not, then redirecting the attachments to a device that is capable of processing the attachment.

5

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the type of attachment is a sound file.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the redirection events include external events, internal events, or networked events.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the external event is a message from the mobile communication device to start redirection.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the internal event is a calendar alarm.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the internal event is a screen saver activation.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the internal event is a keyboard timeout signal.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the networked events include messages to begin redirection from computer systems other than the mobile communication device, which are connected to the host system via a wired network.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile communication device is a device selected from the group consisting of hand-held wireless paging computer, a wirelessly enabled palm-top computer, a mobile telephone with data message capabilities, and a wirelessly enabled laptop computer.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile communication device is a device equipped to receive both voice and non-voice data messages.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the host system includes a preferred list for limiting the redirection step to redirecting only those data items that are transmitted to the host system from a sender on the preferred list.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein a user can add and subtract senders from the preferred list.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the preferred list is activated and deactivated at the host system.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the preferred list is activated and deactivated by a command message transmitted from the mobile communication device to the host system.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the user can add and subtract senders from the preferred list by configuring the host system.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the user can add and subtract senders from the preferred list by transmitting a command message from the mobile communication device to the host system.

5 23. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: adding a descriptor to data items generated at the mobile communication device to indicate that the data item originated from the mobile communication device instead of the host system.

10 24. A computer system for redirecting messages from a mobile data communication device, comprising:

a host system capable of sending and receiving messages;

a common email account having an electronic address, wherein the common email account is associated with the host system and the mobile data communication device;

15 a redirector component that forwards email messages from the host system to the mobile data communication device and receives and forwards reply email messages generated at the mobile data communication device, wherein the reply email messages are addressed using the electronic address of the common email account.

20 25. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the reply email messages are addressed by the mobile data communication device.

26. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the reply email messages are addressed by the host system.

27. A method of redirecting data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices, comprising the steps of:

detecting a redirection event and generating a redirection trigger;

receiving data items directed to a first account address associated with the host system;

5 in response to the redirection trigger, continuously redirecting the data items from the host system to a mobile communication device;

receiving data items sent from the mobile communication device; and

wherein data items generated at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the first account address as an originating address.

10 28. A method of redirecting data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving data items directed to a first account address associated with the host system;

15 continuously redirecting the data items from the host system to a mobile communication device; and

receiving data items sent from the mobile communication device;

wherein data items created at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the first account address as an originating address.

20 29. A method of redirecting data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving data items directed to a common address associated with the host system and a mobile device;

continuously redirecting the data items as they are received at the host system to the mobile communication device when a redirection event is detected; and

receiving data items sent from the mobile communication device;

wherein data items generated at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the common address as an address from which data items originated.

30. A method of redirecting data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving data items, at a mobile device, directed to a common address associated with the host system and the mobile device; and

continuously redirecting the data items to the host system when a redirection event is detected at the mobile device;

wherein data items generated at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the common address as an address from which data items originated.

31. A method of redirecting data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more data items directed to a common address associated with the host system;

copying the one or more data items;

sending the copies to a mobile communication device; and

receiving data items sent from the mobile communication device;

wherein data items generated at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the common address as an address from which data items originated.

5 ~~Sub B~~ 32. A method of mirroring data items between a host system and one or more mobile communication devices comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more incoming data items directed to a common address associated with a user account of the host system;

storing at the host system in association with the user account the one or more incoming data items;

10 copying the one or more incoming data items;

sending the copies to a mobile communication device;

receiving at the host system outgoing data items sent from the mobile communication device; and

storing at the host system the data items sent from the mobile communication device;

15 wherein data items generated at either the host system or the mobile communication device share the common address as an address from which data items originated.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the host system is a corporate network server.

20 34. The method of claim 32, wherein the host system is a desktop networked computer.

~~Sub B~~ 35. The method of claim 32, wherein the host system is an application service provider.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein the host system is a web-based email server.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein the host system is a web-based personal information manager.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein the common address is an email address.

39. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

encrypting the data items redirected to the mobile communication device; and
decrypting encrypted data items sent from the mobile communication device.

40. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

encrypting the data items sent from the mobile communication device; and
decrypting the encrypted data items received at the mobile communication device.

41. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of:

packaging into electronic envelopes the data items prior to redirecting them; and
unpackaging from electronic envelopes the data items sent from the mobile
communication devices.

42. A method, comprising the steps of:

creating a first message at a mobile data communication device, wherein the first message is addressed to a message recipient and from a host system;

packaging the first message into an electronic envelope addressed to the host system;

transmitting the electronic envelope to the host system; and

recovering the first message from the electronic envelope at the host system and transmitting the first message to the message recipient so that the first message appears to have been created at the host system.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the first message is a reply message to the message recipient.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein the first message is an original message generated at the mobile data communication device.

45. A method, comprising the steps of:

a user creating a first message at a mobile data communication device, wherein the first message is addressed to a message recipient and from a host system;

packaging the first message into an electronic envelope addressed to the host system;

transmitting the electronic envelope to the host system; and

recovering the first message from the electronic envelope at the host system and transmitting the first message to the message recipient so that the user of the mobile data communication device appears to have created the first message at the host system.

46. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for handling messages to and from a mobile data communications device, comprising:

program code that receives data items directed to a first account address associated with a host computer system;

5 program code that continuously redirects the data items from the host computer system to the mobile data communications device; and

program code that receives data items sent from the mobile data communications device; wherein data items sent from either the host computer system or the mobile data communications device share the first account address as an originating address.

10 47. A wireless mobile communications device associated with a first computer system identified by a first electronic address, wherein the first computer system includes a wireless redirector component for redirecting messages from the first computer system to the wireless mobile communications device, comprising:

15 a receiver for receiving a redirected message from the first computer system;
a memory for storing the redirected message;
a message generator for generating a reply message to the redirected message at the mobile device using the first electronic address of the first computer system as an originating address of the reply message; and

20 a transmitter for transmitting the reply message to the first computer system.

9dd/09
7.3.09